

The Bloomfield Record.

S. M. HULIN, Editor and Proprietor.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1876.

All who are interested in having a newspaper in this village are requested to send us by mail, or to the publishing office, local items of news, correspondence, etc., for publication.

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The Vexed Question.

One of our public spirited citizens is now making a very praiseworthy attempt to induce the inauguration of the system of improvement of our streets by curbing and paving under the provisions of the law provided for that purpose. He deserves and will receive the commendation and thanks of the community, and the fair prospect that his efforts will result in some definite and permanent good seems to render the discussion at this time of the manner in which such improvements should be made eminently proper.

The choice lays between the use of a MacAdam or Telford pavement, the Belgian block or the Granite or Syenite block pavements. These several kinds are to be judged and preferred according to their cost, durability and fitness to answer the effect sought.

We all know what the Telford is. It is upon Bloomfield avenue has given us good opportunity to observe it. It kept in perfect repair it unquestionably makes a good road.

The Belgian pavement is composed of cubes of about 5 inches of trap rock. If well laid it presents a smooth surface and is almost indestructible.

The Granite, or properly speaking, Syenite pavement, consists of cubes of from 6 to 8 inches of Syenite. Granite is composed of quartz, feldspar and mica, Syenite, of quartz, feldspar and hornblende. The celebrated Quincy Granite, so called, is Syenite. Another description of this last pavement consists of blocks about 4 inches thick, 12 inches long and 8 inches wide, set like the pavement in Broadway, New York. This latter kind is unquestionably the very best in use, presents a smooth surface and on account of the narrowness of the exposed face furnishes a secure toothold.

The cost of these pavements, as nearly as the writer has by careful inquiry been able to learn, is as follows. Telford, complete, including grading, where the earth to be removed does not exceed two yards. Belgian block, including grading &c., \$2.25 per square yard. The same, or the long block as above described, including grading &c., as before \$2.75 per square yard.

Much of the Telford in Orange and East Orange cost when laid, three or four years ago, more than the best Syenite can be put down for now.

The Telford is, or rather has been, fashionable, because the interest advocating and supporting it has been large and powerful. On the other hand many candid men who have had a good opportunity for observing it express serious doubts as to its practical utility.

It will be observed that the first cost of Telford is less than that of either of the other kinds, but it must be borne in mind that it requires constant attention and repair, and if this is not given just at the right time, the cost will be greatly enhanced. The lowest estimate the writer has obtained of the cost of repair after the second or third year is 10 cents per square yard. East Orange has several miles of Telford. Last year the appropriation for road repairs was \$10,000, and this year it is likely to be greater and of course must constantly increase. The Belgian and Syenite block pavements when once laid seldom call for additional expenditure, hence at the end of a few years are actually cheaper than the Telford and at the end of twenty years or more are substantially as good as new.

Now this question of repairs to Telford is a serious one and should be well considered in the light of experience before that pavement is generally adopted in this township.

We are not a people able to appropriate any considerable sum of money to be expended in driblets for repairs of roads, therefore we should at the outset adopt such a system as will enable us to reap the advantages to be gained from permanent improvements without burdening ourselves with a constant outlay when it is not necessary.

Our first object should be to provide good, durable roadways to accommodate the demands of necessity rather than to furnish fancy drives for those who possess a light appreciation of the burdens of taxation, because they seldom participate to any extent in relieving them.

The dust raising from Telford, and the difficulty of repairing it when gair mains or supply pipes are laid also renders it exceedingly objectionable.

In conclusion allow me, Mr. Editor to suggest to you and your readers, that it would be wise to inaugurate a system of improvement, which we are greatly need, by a candid and fair discussion of a public meeting of the questions which have been advanced to above, in order that what may be done advisedly and with a general understanding of the results that will follow the adoption of either course that may be recommended.

At any rate prudence is not incompatible with improvement, and to endeavor to ascertain how we can obtain the best results from proposed outlay before we proceed to the outlay seems to be the part of wisdom.

W.

Township Meeting.

The annual meeting of citizens, called by the Township Committee, was held on Monday evening. Mr. J. F. Randolph was appointed Chairman and Township Clerk. J. F. Folson acted as Secretary. On motion the Annual Report as read and explained by the Secretary was received and accepted.

From the Report it appeared that the disbursements for the year have been as follows:

Current Township Expenses,	\$3,348.75
Expended for Poor, (including New House)	5,034.30
For Repair of Roads,	3,461.17
" Gaslighting,	9,000.00
Public Grounds,	177.00
New Sidewalks,	764.64
" Grading,	84.67
Last Payment for Lamp Posts,	1,710.00
Schools,	15,929.94
County Tax,	31,929.94
Bal. in hands of Collectors,	8,302.26
	\$79,000.35

Taxes, assessments, fees, &c. have been collected to the total amount stated, but there are of Uncollected Taxes as follows:

Year 1875	\$4,210.22
" 1876	3,130.10
" 1876	7,357.57
" 1876	18,842.49

Total Arrears \$33,441.89

The great necessity of collecting these taxes is urged in the report, where it is stated that the County has claims against us of \$21,000.00 the Township Schools \$5,600, and Gas Lighting to April 1st, \$2,400.

The report was accepted without any adverse criticism of the Town Committee, and who, doubtless, have managed affairs for us as well as can be expected in view of the times. The meeting, on suggestion of the Chairman, then proceeded to vote for the poor Fund. Sums were nominated, ranging from \$2,500 to \$3,000. Mr. E. Peckham, in advocating the higher sum, complimented the Overseer and the Town Committee for good management in expending the fund during the past year. An appropriation of \$3,000 received the largest vote.

The sum of \$2,500 was then voted for Contingent Expenses.

The appropriation of money for Road purposes called forth a lively debate. It was stated that a petition had been circulated for improving parts of Glenwood avenue and Broad street by laying Telford pavement, and that in making an appropriation it would be well to make it large enough to provide for the preparatory grading. The only speaker for this was Mr. E. Peckham, who argued that by the continuation of the blood sucking process until we are completely exhausted? If not let us demand of our representatives the unconditional repeal of the Essex County Board of Health Law.

Mr. E. S. Wilde spoke in opposition to the plan of going forward under the Bloomfield Improvement Law, stating that a general road law to govern all township improvements was to be introduced in the Legislature this year, which will affect special road laws, hence arguing that it would be wise to wait until the general law was in force. He also entered a plea for a low appropriation, on account of the extreme difficulty of collecting the taxes. Remarks in favor of the proposed improvement of Broad street were made by Messrs. Lyon, Hughes, Esquire Day, Dr. Davis and Rev. Mr. Ballantine. The latter gentleman, from the down-right appliance which followed his few but pointed remarks, struck a fatal blow to the policy of waiting for something to turn up in the Legislature. The feeling of the meeting was strongly partial to doing something at once to extricate the town from the reproach as well as the annoyance of having its main thoroughfare in such a horrid condition. 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